**Lesson Plan: Global Connections**

**Description:** What makes us who we are? Students will engage in a collaborative learning experience. Through email exchanges, students will build friendships and learn about the daily lives and characteristics of the local environment of students who live in another region of the world.

**Standards:**

[**http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/**](http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/)

**7.1 World Languages** All students will be able to use a world language in addition to English to engage in meaningful conversation, to understand and interpret spoken and written language, and to present information, concepts, and ideas, while also gaining an understanding of the perspectives of other cultures. Through language study, they will make connections with other content areas, compare the language and culture studied with their own, and participate in home and global communities.

**8.1 Educational Technology** All students will use digital tools to access, manage, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to solve problems individually and collaboratively and to create and communicate knowledge.

**9.1 21st-Century Life & Career Skills** All students will demonstrate the creative, critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills needed to function successfully as both global citizens and workers in diverse ethnic and organizational cultures.

**1.2 History of the Arts and Culture** All students will understand the role, development, and influence of the arts throughout history and across cultures.

[**National Geographic Standards**](http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/standards/national-geography-standards/?ar_a=1)

Places and Regions [Standard 6](http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/standards/national-geography-standards/06/?ar_a=1): How culture and experience influence people's perception of places and regions.

Human Systems [Standard 10](http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/standards/national-geography-standards/10/?ar_a=1): The characteristics, distributions, and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics.

[Standard 12](http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/standards/national-geography-standards/12/?ar_a=1): The process, patterns, and functions of human settlement.

[**National Education Technology Standards (NETS)**](http://www.iste.org/standards/nets-for-students/nets-student-standards-2007)

**Essential Questions**

1.How is my life similar to and different from my ePal's life?

2.How does the natural environment where my ePal lives affect his or her life?

3.What effect does the culture in my ePal's region have on his or her life?

**Objectives:**

1. Students will compose well-written emails to their partners.

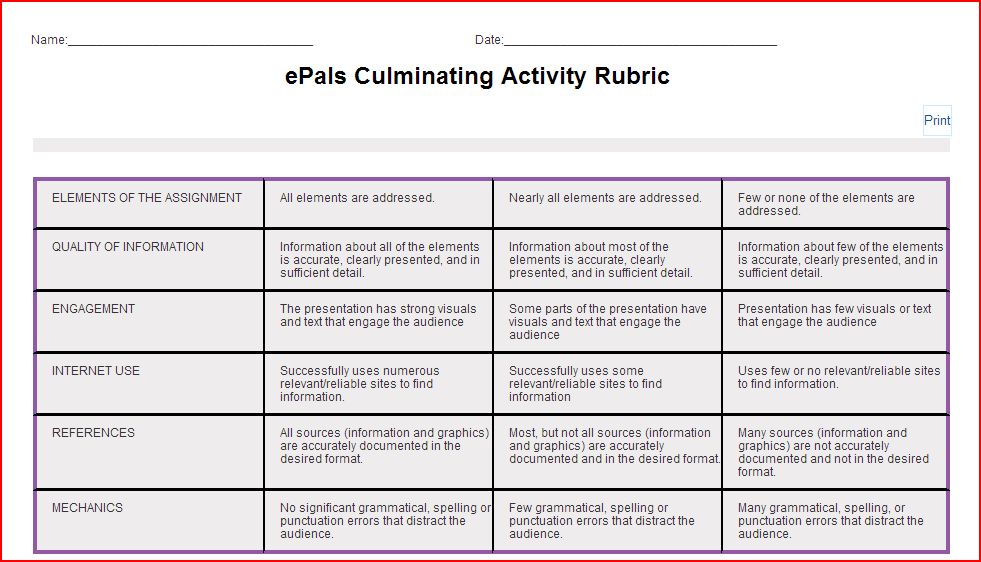
2. Students will build a relationship with students in another Spanish speaking country.   
3. Students will identify similarities and differences between themselves and their ePals.  
4. Students will work collaboratively to create a PowerPoint presentation to demonstrate their learning.

**Instructions:**

After finding a partner classroom at ePals.com and completing the ePals/National Geographic : The Way We Are project students create a PowerPoint presentation with the following guidelines:

1. Using the emails that you received as your primary source, make a table of similarities and differences including personality and habits, daily life, environment and culture.  
2. Find a map that shows the country/city that your ePal lives in and includes other important cities.  
3. Use a search engine to find information on holidays and celebrations (dates, preparations, and activities) from your ePal’s country.  
4. Include photos sent to you by your ePal and excerpts from their letters that you particularly liked in your presentation.

**Rubric:**

****